Case 2:09-cv-09250-DMG-FFM Document 1 Filed 12/17/09 Page 1 of 12 Page ID #:1 FILED Ryan Lee, Esq. (SBN 235879) 2009 DEC 17 AM 10: 41 Krohn & Moss, Ltd. 1 10474 Santa Monica Blvd. 4th Floor CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF. LOS ANGELES Los Angeles, CA 90025 2 T: (323) 988-2400; F: (866) 802-0021 rlee@consumerlawcenter.com 3 Attorneys for Plaintiff 4 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA-LOS ANGELES DIVISION 5

DAVID LAWRENCE,

C4-09 09250

W (FFM)

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Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

VS.

PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC,

(Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

DAVID LAWRENCE (Plaintiff), by his attorneys, KROHN & MOSS, LTD., alleges the following against PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC (Defendant):

INTRODUCTION

1. Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15

U.S.C. 1692 et seq. (FDCPA). According to the FDCPA, the United States Congress has found abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors, and has determined that abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy. Congress wrote the FDCPA to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively

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- disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses. 15 U.S.C. 1692(a) (e).
- 2. Count II of the Plaintiff's Verified Complaint is based on Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal. Civ. Code §1788 et seq. (RFDCPA). According to the RFDCPA, the California legislature has determined that the banking and credit system and grantors of credit to consumers are dependent upon the collection of just and owing debts and that unfair or deceptive collection practices undermine the public confidence that is essential to the continued functioning of the banking and credit system and sound extensions of credit to consumers. The Legislature has further determined that there is a need to ensure that debt collectors exercise this responsibility with fairness, honesty and due regard for the debtor's rights and that debt collectors must be prohibited from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices. Cal. Civ. Code §1788.1(a) (b).
- 3. Plaintiff brings this action to challenge Defendant's actions with regard to attempts by Defendant, a debt collector, to unlawfully and abusively collect a debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff, and this conduct caused Plaintiff damages.
- 4. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy" and 28 U.S.C. 1367 grants this court supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims contained therein.
- 6. Because Defendant maintains a business office and conducts business in the state of California, personal jurisdiction is established.

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- 7. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b)(1).
- 8. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 9. Plaintiff is a natural person who resides in the city of Hawthorne, Los Angeles County, California and is allegedly obligated to pay a debt and is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(3).
- 10. Defendant is a debt collector and sought to collect a consumer debt from Plaintiff which was due and owing or alleged to be due and owing from Plaintiff and is a "debtor" as that term is defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.2(h).
- 11. Defendant is a national company with its headquarters in Norfolk, Virgina.
- 12. Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in any business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, or who regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another and is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 13. Defendant is not a firm of attorneys or counselors at law and is a company who, in the ordinary course of business, regularly, on behalf of itself or others, engages in debt collection as that term is defined by Cal. Civ. Code §1788.2(b), and is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by Cal. Civ. Code §1788.2(c).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 14. Defendant constantly and continuously places collection calls to Plaintiff seeking and demanding payment for an alleged debt.
- 15. Defendant constantly and continuously places collection calls to Plaintiff at the number (310) 948-0229.
- 16. Defendant contacted a third party, Plaintiff's mother, multiple times seeking and demanding payment for the alleged consumer debt.

17. Defendant is attempting to contact Plaintiff at a location that Plaintiff has not lived in over ten (10) years.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 18. Defendant violated the FDCPA based on the following:
 - a. Defendant violated §1692b(1) of the FDCPA by contacting a third party and failing to state that collector is confirming or correcting location information.
 - b. Defendant violated §1692b(2) of the FDCPA by contacting a third party and stating Plaintiff owes a debt.
 - c. Defendant violated §1692b(3) of the FDCPA by contacting a third party more than once.
 - d. Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA by communicating with Plaintiff at a time and place known to be inconvenient.
 - e. Defendant violated §1692c(B) of the FDCPA by communicating with someone other than consumer concerning the alleged cdebt.
 - f. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, and abuse Plaintiff.
 - g. Defendant Violated $\S1692d(5)$ of the FDCPA by causing a telephone to ring and engaging Plaintiff repeatedly and continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, and harass.
 - h. Defendant violated §1692d(6) by placing telephone calls without meaningful disclosure of callers identity.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, David Lawrence, respectfully requests judgment be entered against Defendant, PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC, for the following:

- 19. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act,
- 20. Statutory damages pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 1692k,
- 21. Actual damages,
- 22. Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 1692k
- 23. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

COUNT II DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 24. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all of the allegations in Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint as the allegations in Count II of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 25. Defendant violated the RFDCPA based on the following:
 - a. Defendant violated §1788.11(b) of the RFDCPA by placing telephone calls without disclosure of the caller's identity.
 - b. Defendant violated §1788.11(d) of the RFDCPA by causing Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly and continuously so as to annoy Plaintiff.
 - c. Defendant violated §1788.11(e) of the RFDCPA by communicating by telephone with the Plaintiff with such frequency as to be unreasonable and to constitute harassment to the debtor under the circumstances.
 - d. Defendant violated §1788.12(c) of the RFDCPA by communicating with a third party and disclosing the nature and existence of the alleged consumer debt.
 - e. Defendant violated the §1788.17 of the RFDCPA by continuously failing to comply with the statutory regulations contained within the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.

1.	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DAVID LAWRENCE, respectfully requests judgment be					
2	entered against Defendant, PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC, for the following:					
3	26. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the Rosenthal Fair Deb					
4	Collection Practices Act,					
5	27. Statutory damages pursuant to the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal.					
6	Civ. Code §1788.30(b),					
7	28. Actual damages,					
8	29. Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collectio					
9	Practices Act, Cal. Civ Code § 1788.30(c), and					
10	30. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.					
11	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL					
12	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, DAVID LAWRENCE, demands a jury trial in					
13	this cause of action.					
14	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
15						
16	Dated: December 8, 2009 By: // I as The a					
17	Ryad Lee, Esq. KROHN & MOSS, LTD.					
18	Attorneys for Plaintiff,					
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Andreas and the second	
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3	VERIFICATION OF COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATION
4	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
-	Plaintiff, DAVID LAWRENCE, states as follows:
6	have a manufacture in this civil proceeding
7	2. I have read the above-entitled civil Complaint prepared by my attorneys and I state all of the facts contained in it are true, to the best of my knowledge, information
8	and belief formed after reasonable inquiry.
9	law or by a good faith argument for the extension, modification of reversal of existing
10	4. I believe that this civil Complaint is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as
11	needless increase in the cost of intigation to any Determands), named in
12	5. I have filed this Complaint in good faith and solely for the purposes set forth in it. 6. Each and every exhibit I have provided to my attorneys which has been attached to
13	this Complaint is a true and correct copy of the original. The complaint is a true and correct copy of the original. The complaint is a true and correct copy of the original.
14	have not altered, changed, modified or fabricated these exhibits, except that some of the attached exhibits may contain some of my own handwritten notations.
15	Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 8 1746(2), I. DAVID LAWRENCE, hereby declare (or certify,
16	verify or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
17	DATE: 11-19-09 Vaint James Co
18	DAVIDLAWRENCE
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge John F. Walter and the assi	gned discovery
Magistrate Judge is Frederick F. Mumm.	

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV09- 9250 JFW (FFMx)

	der 05-07 of the United States Dis ngistrate Judge has been designate	
All discovery related motions	s should be noticed on the calenda	ar of the Magistrate Judge
	NOTICE TO COUNSEL	
A copy of this notice must be served filed, a copy of this notice must be se	with the summons and complaint on all orved on all plaintiffs).	defendants (if a removal action is
Subsequent documents must be filed	at the following location:	
[X] Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012	Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-05 Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516	Eastern Division 3 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134 Riverside, CA 92501
Failure to file at the proper location will res	sult in your documents being returned to you.	

Case 2.09-0v-	-09250-DMG-FFM	Document	1 Filed 12/17	709 Page 9 01 1	2 Page 1D #.9
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-			DISTRICT CO CT OF CALIFO		
DAVID LAWREN	CE		CASE NUMBER		
	v.	PLAINTIFF(S)	GV09	09250	JFW (FM
PORTFOLIO RECO	OVERY ASSOCIAT	ES, LLC,			
				SUMMONS	
	D	EFENDANT(S).			
must serve on the pla ☐ counterclaim ☐ cr or motion must be se	oss-claim or a motion rved on the plaintiff's ; 10474 Santa Monica will be entered agains	e attached 🗹 on the state of t	complaint □ 2 of the Federal an Lee, Esq. 401; Los Angele	amend Rules of Civil Process, CA 90025	ed complaint edure. The answer _, whose address is If you fail to do so,
			Clerk, U.S. I	District Court	
Dotodo	DEC 17 2009		D	CHRISTOPHER POV	VERS
Dated:		NAME OF THE PARTY	Ву:	Deputy Clerk	
				(Seal of the Court)	
[Use 60 days if the defend 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)]		or a United States	s agency, or is an of	ficer or employee of the	United States. Allowed
CV-01A (12/07)		SUMN	10NC		

Case 2.09-cv-09230-DIVIG-FFIVI Document	
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	S DISTRICT COURT CCT OF CALIFORNIA
DAVID LAWRENCE	CASE NUMBER
PLAINTIFF(S)	CV09 09250 JFW (FFM)
PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC,	
DEFENDANT(S)	SUMMONS
TO: DEFENDANT(S): PORTFOLIO RECOVERY	Y ASSOCIATES, LLC,
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☐ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, R	12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer tyan Lee, Esq. , whose address is a 401; Los Angeles, CA 90025 . If you fail to do so,
your answer or motion with the court.	•
	Clerk, U.S. District Court
Dated: DEC 17 2009	By:
	By:
	(Seal of the Court)
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United Stat 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	tes agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed

CV-01A (12/07)

SUMMONS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box DAVID LAWRENCE	DEFENDANTS PORTFOLIO RECO	VERY ASSOC	NATES			
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Add yourself, provide same.) Krohn & Moss, Ltd.; Ryan 10474 Santa Monica Blvd., (323) 988-2400	25	Attorneys (If Known)				
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION	(Place an X in one box only.)	III. CITIZEI	NSHIP OF PRINCIPAL X in one box for plaintiff	PARTIES - For de	or Diversity Cases (fendant.)	Only
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of Thi		PTF DEF	Incorporated or Pr of Business in this	
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizer of Parties in Item III)	-		□2 □2	of Business in And	
		Citizen or Sub	pject of a Foreign Country	33	Foreign Nation	□6 □6
☑ 1 Original ☐ 2 Remove						
V. REQUESTED IN COMPLA						
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.	P. 23: ☐ Yes 👿 No		I MONEY DEMANDEI			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite	the U.S. Civil Statute under whice	h you are filing and v	vrite a brief statement of c	ause. Do not ci	te jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity.)
15 USC 1692 et seq.; Unlay	wful and Abusive Debt Collection	Practices				
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place	e an X in one box only.)				040412847	LABOR
	☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Veterans)	PERSONAL INIU 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libe Slander 330 Fed. Employed Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehice Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury 364 Personal Injury 365 Personal Injury Product Liability IMMIGRATIO 462 Naturalizatic Application 463 Habeas Corr Alien Detair 465 Other Immig Actions	Addict PROPERTY 370 Other Frat 371 Truth in L 380 Other Pers Property I Product L BANKRUPH 422 Appeal 28 158 423 Withdraw USC 157 CIVIL RIGH 441 Voting 442 Employm 442 Employm 443 Housing / mmodatio 444 Welfare 445 American 445 American 446 American 446 American 446 American 446 American 446 Other 440 Other Cive 440 Other Cive	510 ad ending sonal 530 535 540 540 555 56 610 620 620 620 620 640 650 660 650 660 650 660 6	Mandamus/ Other Civil Rights Prison Condition PREFITURE 7 PENALTY Agriculture Other Food & Drug Drug Related Seizure of	□ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations □ 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act □ PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) □ FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609
			-PHAC) NE) ጋ 5 በ	
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CAS	ES: Has this action been previous	iously filed in this	court and	dismissed, remanded or closed? I No 🗆 Yes		
VIII(b). RELATED CASES If yes, list case number(s):	S: Have any cases been previous	ously filed in this	court that	are related to the present case? ☑ No ☐ Yes		
(Check all boxes that apply)	☐ C. For other reasons wou ☐ D. Involve the same pate	r closely related to of the same or su ald entail substanti ont, trademark or c	ransaction bstantially al duplica opyright,	y related or similar questions of law and fact; or tion of labor if heard by different judges; or and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.		
	ting the following information					
(a) List the County in this I☐ Check here if the govern	District; California County out nment, its agencies or employe	side of this Distric ees is a named pla	et; State if intiff. If t	other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. his box is checked, go to item (b).		
County in this District:*				California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
Los Angeles (CA)						
(b) List the County in this I ☐ Check here if the gover	District; California County our	tside of this Distri ees is a named det	ct; State if endant. I	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. f this box is checked, go to item (c).		
County in this District:*				California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
				Norfolk, VA		
(c) List the County in this	District; California County ou nation cases, use the location	tside of this Distri	ct; State i	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.		
County in this District:*				California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
Los Angeles (CA)						
* Los Angeles, Orange, Sa	n Bernardino, Riverside, Ve cases, use the location of the	ntura, Santa Bar	bara, or S	San Luis Obispo Counties		
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTO		Table of the same		Date December 8, 2009		
Notice to Counsel/Par	rties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Ci			rmation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings se of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ting the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)		
Key to Statistical codes rela	ting to Social Security Cases:					
Nature of Su	it Code Abbreviation			f Cause of Action		
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))				
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)				
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))				
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))				
864	SSID	Act, as amende	d.	tal security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security		
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))				